

Some of the evidence that
you might look for when
evaluating the distinctiveness
and effectiveness of a church
school



Physical

- **Entrance:** Cross, Bible, values statement
- **Displays :** R.E.
 - : praise and rewards charts
 - : SEAL linked to Christian values
 - : Photographs
- **Symbols and artefacts** - including those from other faiths
- **Reflection tables** in classes



Collective Worship

Legal requirements

- Worship is conducted in accordance with the school's founding Trust Deed, and its Ethos Statement
- an Act of Collective Worship for all pupils every day
- a published statement about the right of withdrawal



Anglican School Worship



- Collective worship in a Church Schools must reflect C of E principles and the Anglican heritage on which the school is founded'

Introductory music to create a worshipful atmosphere

Lighting candles - focus for prayer and worship

Recognising and celebrating key elements of Anglican observance:

- its cyclical/seasonal nature

- its regularity and set order

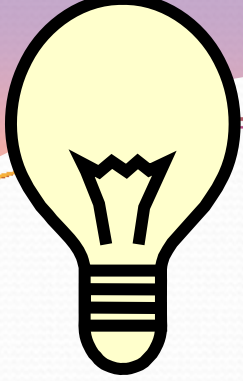
- the centrality of the Eucharist

- observation of Saints' Days and other holy days

Acknowledging the variety of other forms of local worship.

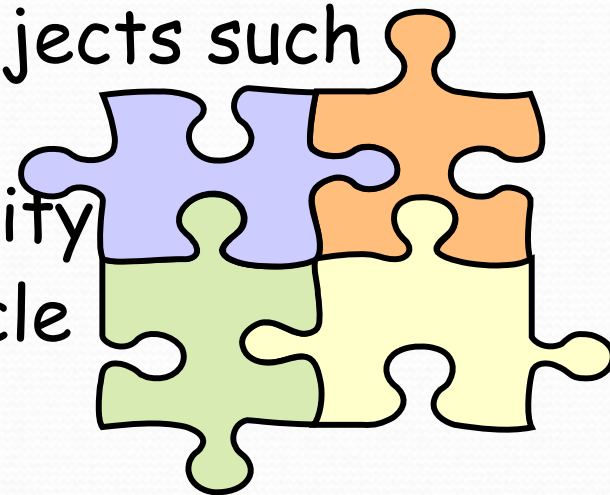
Hymns and songs

Using the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning



Excellence in RE

- Thorough planning and good resources
- Supports the Christian Ethos/Anglican tradition
- Monitoring and evaluation as for other core subjects
- Attainment in line with other subjects such as English and humanities
- RE Subject Leader CPD opportunity
- Themes linked to CW, PSHE, Circle Time, SEAL



Understanding of and sensitivity shown to other faiths

Celebrating Eid



Making Indian Food

Good Church School Links



- Designing **leaflets** for the church
- Explore **symbolism** - design and make altar cloths, kneelers, robes, banners for church
- **Interview** the vicar, the church warden, members of congregation - make a video/PPP
- Pupils produce the Parish **Newsletter**
- Design an element of worship for a **service** and deliver it
- **Retreat days**
- Encourage parishioners to make '**Story Bags**'

Other elements that make a church school distinctive and different?

- Commitment to developing the spiritual dimension in the formal and hidden curriculum
- Christian inferences and Gospel values built into the ethos and teaching - yet no ideological pressure

Relationships



- **Christian values** evident in relationships between staff; between pupils and staff; **between Governors.**
- Disagreement and conflict dealt with **compassionately** based on Christian principles of forgiveness, reconciliation and fresh start.
- Staff/pupils work **collaboratively** and **cooperatively**, showing **sympathy** and **support** for those in difficulty?

A distinctive Christian vision

stakeholders
speak
confidently and
accurately
about it

clearly evident
in all public
documentation
and communi-
cations

Foundation Govs
nourish, encourage
and challenge the
headteacher
effectively in
promoting the
school's Trust Deed.

Headteacher and
Foundation Govs have
been highly effective in
prompting the quality and
core status of the
school's distinctive
Christian character

Highly effective
pastoral and spiritual
links between the
Parish or deanery and
the school support its
promotion.



A distinctive Mission/Values Statement



- Regular **re-visit/review** of Mission Statement
- Clear **Christian values** resulting from this
- Mission **shared** with all stakeholders - staff, pupils, parents, governors
- Mission **stated** in all public documentation and policy documents

Leadership that encourages, monitors and challenges

Self-evaluation

Secure and reflective monitoring and evaluation processes:

- firmly embedded in school improvement planning
- fully involving middle managers / coordinators
- taking account of other staff and learners' views

Quality RE and Collective Worship

outstanding standards maintained

staff receive excellent support and rigorous challenge from the school's leaders

Effective leadership of a C of E foundation school includes supporting and promoting:

- the development and nurture of the distinctiveness of the Christian ethos and the spiritual life of the school through:
- Christian values through school policies and practice and the way in which the Governing Body conducts its business;
- the high status and quality of Religious Education and Collective Worship;
- positive links between the school, Parish Church and the Diocesan Board of Education;
- a clear view of what it means for the school to have a Christian foundation and put this into practice.

Foundation Governors who actively support and develop the Christian foundation of the school

- Uphold the high status and quality of Religious Education and Collective Worship
- Ensure the school's Ethos Statement is reflected in all school policies and is apparent in attitudes and relationships of all
- Foster positive links between the school, Parish Church and the Diocesan Board of Education
- Ensure Ofsted inspections are accompanied by the statutory denominational Section 48 inspection (SIAS)
- Check that SIAS report recommendations are met
- Support the role of clergy in school
- Promote Christian values in the way in which the Governing Body conducts its business
- Report back to the PCC